Indo-Nepal Border and DRI have been put on alert to guard against drug trafficking, gold smuggling and inflow of counterfeit currency. Effective steps are being taken by DRI & Preventive Commissionerates to collect intelligence in this regard and a close watch is being maintained on sensitive areas along Indo-Nepal Border to thwart any attempt of smuggling of the said items. As a result of this stepped up surveillance, greater quantities of drugs were seized in 1999 as compared to 1998 and one case of smuggling of counterfeit currency also detected.

Opposition to implementation of uniform sales Tax

519. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that uniform sales tax policy is being implemented since January 1, 2000;

(b) if so, the States which have implemented this policy;

(c) whether the confederation of All India Traders and some States have opposed the implementation of this policy;

(d) if so, the details thereof and their views on it; and

(e) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have implemented this policy.

(c) No such representation has been received. The decision to implement the policy was taken by all the States by consensus.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.